

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated November 1, 2007, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, and 5-7 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 – 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants have amended the claims to remove the recitation which the Examiner asserts is not supported by the disclosure. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

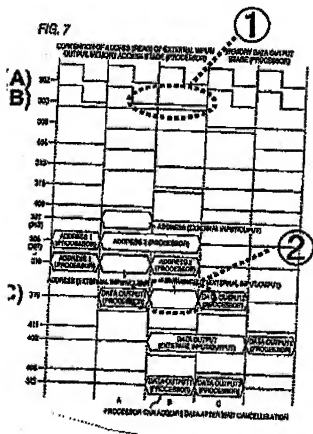
III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 – 3, 5, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,499,087 to Fadavi-Ardekani in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,847,757 to Smith. Claim 4 stands rejected under § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Fadavi-Ardekani and Smith as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,065,102 to Peters. Claim 7 stands rejected under § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Fadavi-Ardekani in view of Peters. Applicants traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites, among other things, an information processing apparatus comprising a clock generating means for supplying a clock signal to the first and second data input/output

means and access arranging means for causing the clock signal to the second data input/output means to be stopped for one clock cycle and for executing access of the first input/output means for the one clock cycle when a contention of access of the first data input/output means and the second data input/output means to the data storing means is generated. Thus, the clock signal of the first and second data input/output means are synchronous.

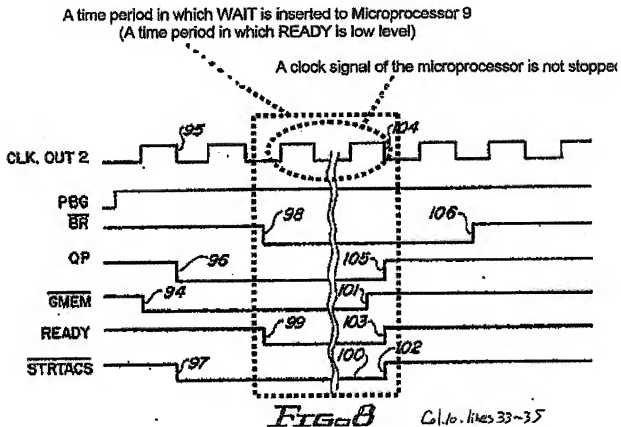
As depicted in Figure 7 (reproduced and marked up below), when a contention of access to the memory is generated, a clock signal of an agent of low priority is made to stop, as indicated at "1" below, in that interval. An agent of high priority is made to access the memory, as indicated at "2" below.



The Examiner refers to column 1, line 61 through column 2, line 10 of Fadavi as allegedly disclosing that once one agent completes access, the other agent can access the

memory. However, Fadavi fails to disclose the clock generation means recited in claim 1 because the clock signal to the first agent and the clock signal to the second agent are not synchronous or in phase with one another (see Fadavi, column 1, line 61 through column 2, line 10).

The Examiner admits that Fadavi fails to disclose the access arranging means of claim 1, and relies on Smith to overcome this deficiency. However, in Smith, in a case where a contention of the access memory is generated, the WAIT is inserted into the processor, at that time, the clock signal for the processor continues to operate and is not stopped. A marked up copy of Figure 8 of Smith is depicted below illustrating this feature.



Moreover, in Smith, since a hand-shaking process occurs when an access contention is generated, it is well known in the art that a wait of several cycles is inserted in the processor, causing significant performance deterioration. In contrast, the present disclosure allows the wait

of a single clock cycle during an access contention. Thus, clearly, the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature of claim 1.

Independent claims 2, 5, 6, and 7 include features similar to those described above. Accordingly, these claims are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons described above in reference to claim 1. Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 2 and are therefore allowable over the cited references at least by virtue of their dependency.

IV. Conclusion

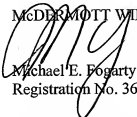
Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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